veſſel, and ſurrounding them with a *mixture of ſalts*, deſcribed in my former letter, will *anſwer this end*. He ſpeaks with ſo much certainty of its ſucceſs, that I think it worth the trial, eſpecially when he *aſſures* us it *never fails*.

I am, my Lord,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt obedient humble ſervant,

London, Dec. 13. 1759. John Ellis.

P. S. Small ſeeds, in their pods, may be preſerved by being placed thinly on pieces of paper, cotton or linen cloth, that have been dipt in wax, then rolled up tight, and well ſecured from air by a further covering of wax.

XXV. *The Caſe of a very long Suppreſſion of Urine.* *By* Ambroſe Dawſon, *M. D.* *Communicated by* William Heberden, *M. D. F. R. S.*

Read Nov. 8, 1759. R. W. aged 23 years, tall and well-made, was ſeized, in the year 1755, with a weakneſs of one ſide, which ſoon went off, leaving only one knee weak and ſwelled; for which ſhe was admitted into St. George's Hoſpital.

On the 4th of April, 1756, ſhe had a ſtoppage of urine, and felt no diſpoſition to make any for two days. During the whole month of April, the diſcharge of urine was very irregular, it having ceaſed at one time for five days, and at another time for nine days. When the catheter was introduced, little or no urine was found in the bladder.

In order to relieve her, ſhe had been directed to uſe both the warm and cold bath, bleeding, purging, turpentine clyſters, and a ſtrong infuſion of pareira brava, without any ſucceſs: cantharides had likewiſe been given her to the quantity of three grains in a doſe; and this doſe had been repeated four times in 24 hours; but without any other effect than that of occaſioning pains in her throat, ſtomach, and bowels, with vomiting and purging. A wet towel put round her waiſt, ſeemed to do the moſt good, and brought away ſome water two or three times; but afterwards ceaſed to have this effect.

From the 26th of April, 1756, ſhe made no water, and felt no want of making it, for many months; yet all this time ſhe could eat once or twice a day, and was able to walk and ride. She was ſparing in the uſe of liquids; ſhe had but little ſleep, no ſweats, and her ſkin had no urinous ſmell: her breathing was often very laborious, with a dry cough: the catamenia were irregular: there were oedematous ſwellings in her limbs, abdomen, hips, and face; but, by the help of purges, and ſpontaneous vomitings, which began in the third month of the ſuppreſſion, theſe ſwellings were tolerably kept under. She vomited ſometimes every day, and ſometimes only every third or fourth day; and tho' theſe vomitings uſually came on preſently after dinner, yet what ſhe vomited ſeemed to be mere urine, without any thing which ſhe had eaten mixed with it. In the beginning of June 1757, the nipples of her breaſts chopped, and diſcharged ſometimes a watery humour, ſometimes a thick matter, ſtreaked with blood, and ſometimes a humour approaching to the colour of urine: all theſe

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diſcharges had an urinous ſcent, and ſeemed to leſſen her urinous vomitings, which, from this time, became leſs frequent: but her legs, and eſpecially her body, ſwelled to an extraordinary ſize, and ſhe breathed with the utmoſt difficulty.

On the firſt and ſecond of Auguſt, 1757, after a total ſuppreſſion of urine for above a year and three months, ſhe felt uncommon pricking pains, with great heat all down her back and loins, and about the belly and groin. On the ſecond day, ſhe voided about three ounces of thick, ſlimy matter, attended with ſharp pains in the urinary paſſages: this water was not high-coloured. The next day, ſhe made water of a truly urinous kind with leſs pain; and continued to make a little water every day, the pain daily decreaſing; and on the 7th ſhe voided about a pint.

Since this, ſhe has often had a ſuppreſſion of urine for ten or fourteen days; and it once laſted two months, during which ſhe had no vomiting; but her body was very much ſwelled. In July 1759, according to her own account, ſhe did not uſually make above half a pint in 24 hours; and ſometimes ſcarce ſo much in two days. The catamenia were then irregular; her ſleep ſhort, and diſturbed; ſhe had very little appetite; her legs ſwelled; and the reſt of her body waſted.